

King's Children.

M. R. O. NOTES.

W. D. FURRY.

We can well preface this week's notes with a few thoughts on Christian Giving or rather Christian Stewardship.

Giving ought not to be considered a *duty* but a *privilege*. Paul's doctrine of giving in I Cor. 16: 2 may be arranged thus: (1) Individual giving—"Let every one of you lay by him in store." (2) Systematic giving—"Upon the first day of the week." (3) Proportionate giving—(a) "According to our ability." (b) "As God hath prospered us." (4) *Self-denying giving*. Says our author in another place: In soliciting money for foreign work, solicitors use this expression: "*You can give this and not feel it a bit.*" Here is one grand deficiency in our giving; we give and *do not feel it; neither does the world very much.* Can God take much pleasure in a gift that costs us nothing? Rather let us give until we do feel it.

Let us now go to our study of ch. 4 or, The Moving of the Pillar. We could, with much profit review ch. 2.

Wherever we find the work of the Infinite, there we find also unity of plan. One of the distinguishing characteristics of our Holy Scripture is this unity of structure and purpose which pervades it; and it is further the greatest argument for the divine authorship of the book. So argues our author if the work of missions is a divine work and if there has been a fulfillment of the promise in Matt. 28: 20, of divine leadership we will find a *unity* of plan in the close and necessary connection of its various parts with each other.

That there has been this unity of plan, is evident from the following facts: (1) God has gone before the church to open doors. ch. 3. (2) The corresponding movement within the church to prepare an *elect, select* band of workers to carry the Gospel thro these doors. (3) Infusing into the church the missionary spirit and and imparting to it a missionary character, that the men and means might be supplied to keep the ranks of the advancing columns full, etc. Such are the facts. Whichever way we look and from whatever point, at the history crowded into this great century of missions, we know not in what aspect of affairs these supernatural interpositions appear most wonderful. It is thro out "the Lord's doing and marvelous in our eyes." (1) Barriers removed. ch. 3, sec. 1. Repetition of Miracle Wrought in Peter's Behalf. Acts 12. (2) How God has been leading out men and women; how he has made them strong,

brave and victorious, with every possible hindrance as to numbers, money, etc. From these we can only conclude that he who went with Gideon or Joshua has gone with these workers. (3) Deadness of church to Foreign Missions, at the beginning of this century. Formation of first English Missionary Society and how Carey fought for twelve years, the apathy and hostility of his brethren. But now the whole church has fallen into line, with its organizations for equipping, sending and supporting workers; missionaries have gone to all quarters of the globe; over two hundred and fifty languages and dialects are now the chariots to bear the wonderful words of life to the ends of the earth.

The closing paragraph of this chapter ought to be memorized by all our readers; and for the sake of those who have not the book I quote it: "India is now a starry firmament, sparkling with missionary stations; Turkey is planted with churches from the Golden Horn to the Tigris and Euphrates and the cross is beginning to outshine the crescent; Syria educates young men and women in her Christian schools, seminaries and colleges and from her consecrated press scatters thro-out the dominions of Mohammed the million leaves of the "Tree of Life;" Japan strides in her "seven league boots" toward a Christian civilization and with a rapidity that rivals apostolic days; Africa is cross-girdled, penetrated by missionary bands and is drawing to itself the wondering gaze of the world; Polynesia's thousand church spires point like fingers to the sky, and where the cannibal ovens roasted the victims for the *feast of death*, the Lord's table is now spread for the *feast of life and love*. Even papal lands now invite Christian labor. McAll crowds Paris and surrounding cities with his hundred Gospel stations and Signor Arrighi prophesies that the World's Evangelical Alliance will yet meet in St. Peter's church and lodge its delegates in the chambers of the Vatican."

From this study we ought to be convinced: (1) That missions originated with God; that he perfected the plan and then revealed it, and then commanded all his disciples to take part in it as his enterprise.

"Ours not to reason why,
Ours but to do and die."

(2) That being so the question so frequently asked, "Do missions pay?" is irreverent. (3) I here quote again from our author in "Missionary Review." Being divine it has no fallible elements and hence admits of no improvements. To modify it is audacity; to abandon it is apostasy. That it is supported by God's

wisdom and God's power. (4) That being so it cannot fail. We may drop out of it as his instruments, but he will raise up others. As sure as God lives the work will move on; his word and oath are pledged to it: "As I live, saith the Lord, unto me every knee shall bow and every tongue shall swear. The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, all flesh shall see the salvation of the Lord. I, the Lord have spoken it, and will do it."

"O God, who hast in thine infinite wisdom planned this work (of missions) and pledged thy presence and power to those who co-work with thee in carrying out thy purpose to the end of the age, strengthen thy servants resolutely to do thy bidding, and, armed with thy authority and moved by a love like thine, serve our own generation by the will of God, with untiring zeal, unceasing prayer, self-denying giving and whole hearted devotion, bearing the tidings of salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth. Amen."—Pier-son. In our next we take up the study of India.

Home Circle.

WHEN MOTHER SITS DOWN BY THE FIRE.

MARY BURR BANKS.

O, the five-o'clock chime brings the coziest time
That is found in the whole of the day,
When Larry and Gus and the others of us
Come in from our study or play;
When we push the big chair to the hearth over
there,

And pile the wood higher and higher,
And we make her a space in the very best place—
And mother sits down by the fire

There's a great deal to say at the close of the day,
And so much to talk over with mother;
There's a comical sight or a horrible plight,
Or a ball game, or something or other;
And she'll laugh with Larry, and sigh with Har-
ry,

And smile to our heart's desire
At a triumph won or a task well done—
When sitting down there by the fire.

Then little she'll care for the clothes that we tear,
Or the havoc we make on her larder;
For the toil and the strife of our everyday life
She will love us a little bit harder;
Then our lady is she, and her knights we would
be,

And her trust doughty deeds will inspire:
For we long then anew to be generous and true—
When mother sits down by the fire.

—The Independent.

OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM.

A little Jewish boy attended a mission Sunday-school in New York. His mother was glad of the two hours' rest it gave her from the care of the restless, inquiring mind. He became engrossed with the story of Jesus Christ, so surpassing strange and new to him, and never tired of look-